

FAITHFUL GRANDPARENTING INTERVIEW
CAROL OLSEN-NOVEMBER 30, 2021

There are times I thought I hit a homerun, only to discover it was a groundball or a strikeout. “Children are always the only future the human race has; Teach them well.”

These are the inspiring musing of Carol Olsen, co-author of “FAITHFUL GRANDPARENTING”, and my guest on this broadcast—

I am Jay Francis Springs, today is the best day of my life and I thank you for allowing me for a few moments to be a part of your life as we talk with the individual that shared the opening profound statement--Good morning Ms. Olsen, and welcome to WIGO---

This program can be heard on your preferred digital device at wigo1570.com, or go to TUNEIN and add WIGO as one of your favorite apps---

Ms. Olsen—what is a Grandparent and what role do they play in the family makeup—

- This book was co-authored by Ms. Becky Danielson, give us the title once again, and why do we as a society need a book about grandparenting?
- How has the role of a grandparent changed?
- What do you consider the most difficult aspect of being a grandparent today?
- How did you get the ideas found in *Faithful Grandparenting*? Share a few of your favorites.
- What brought the two of you together to write a grandparenting book?
- Tell us about *FaithfulGrandparenting.com* where you provide new and updated ideas for grandparents.

- What makes *Faithful Grandparenting: Practical Ideas for Connecting the Generations* different from other books for grandparents?

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Discussion Topics

- Creating a Legacy
- Passing on the Family Heritage
- Cultivating Long-lasting Memories
- Sharing Faith and Inspiring Grandkids to Love the Lord

For more information, please visit

FaithfulGrandparenting.com

Q & A with Becky Danielson M.Ed. and Carol Olsen

authors of ***Faithful Grandparenting: Practical Ideas for Connecting the Generations***

1. How has the role of a grandparent changed in recent years?

Changing culture:

- Busyness
- Family structure
- Working families, grandparents needed more often in two income families
- Physically active seniors- living longer in good health
- Often more financially stable
- But most importantly, love and appreciation of grandchildren has not changed

2. What do you consider the most difficult aspect of being a grandparent today?

- #1 Busyness of life for grandparent, parent, and child
 - Abandoning faith
 - Fractured families
 - Less control of family calendar and activities
 - Transitioning from parent to grandparent: “manager” to “cheerleader”.
- The transition is often more difficult than expected.
- Keeping the lines of communication open with grandchildren

3. How did you get the ideas found in *Faithful Grandparenting: Practical Ideas for Connecting the*

Generations? Share a few of your favorites.

- Our own experiences as grandchildren and for Carol as a grandparent of 8.
- Our experiences as Parent & Family Educators in working with families for many years.
- Seasoned grandparents who shared ideas and stories, both positive and challenging

Challenging.
Becky's Favorites

Adventures

Both large and small, create memories for children. The adventures with my grandmother have translated into adventures with my nieces. An added bonus to the book is that the ideas encourage seniors to speak into the lives of all young people, not just their grandkids.

Adventure example: MN Landscape Arboretum fairy gardens.

Legacy Letters

Share your life story, pass on your personal history through words and photographs. The Apostle Paul wrote, "You yourselves are our letter, written on our hearts, known and read by everyone. You show that you are a letter from Christ, the result of our ministry, written not with ink but with the Spirit of the living God, not on tablets of stone but on tablets of human hearts" (2 Corinthians 3:2-3). In writing a legacy letter or ethical will for your family, you impart values, stories, wisdom, and blessings. Let the legacy letter reflect your beliefs, experiences, and Christian faith. Include the many blessings you have received and your thankfulness to God. Your letter can be given to the family at various times during your life or left to be read after you have gone to be with the Lord. Point out the wonderful attributes of each family member and why each is special to you.

Carol's Favorites

Long Distance Book Club

Connect with a faraway grandchild by reading the same book and scheduling a Zoom or FaceTime conversation to discuss the book.

Busy Box

The Busy Box provides age- appropriate activities for grandkids when visiting grandparents.

"Grandcations"

Special vacations with the grandkids provide a wonderful way of creating memories. Finding the sweet spot can be challenging. Depending on the learning curve for the adventure, children need to be old enough to understand the educational aspects of the trip and participate in certain activities. The family calendar dictates the plan, as you will need to work around school calendars and activity

schedules. Many grandparents have found ages 8-14 work well, depending upon the maturity of the children. Having fun and learning are both goals. “Grandcations” are a bit of “funshine” for everyone!

Faithful Grandparenting: Practical Ideas for Connecting the Generations includes specific ideas for “grandcations”.

Weekly Bible Verse Send a grandchild a verse and words of encouragement each Sunday.

4. Tell us about *FaithfulGrandparenting.com* where you provide new and updated ideas for grandparents.

FaithfulGrandparenting.com is part of FaithFirstParent.com, where parents and grandparents are equipped and encouraged in their parenting and grandparenting journeys. The site includes blog posts with new and creative ideas, an extension of the book.

5. What makes *Faithful Grandparenting: Practical Ideas for Connecting the Generations* different from other books?

Faithful Grandparenting: Practical Ideas for Connecting the Generations is full of tried-and-true suggestions for developing relationships and helping grandchildren find their own faith. The book tackles the challenges that all grandparents face such as physical restrictions, financial limitations, and broken or dysfunctional families.

A little encouragement and sound common sense can make a big difference. Grandparents will find both in ***Faithful Grandparenting: Practical Ideas for Connecting the Generations***.

